

**Governor's P-20 Council
Education Alignment Committee Meeting
July 19, 2007 @ 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Notes**

Present: Dr. Karen Nicodemus (telephonic), Dr. David Curd, Ernie Calderon, Bob Hagen (telephonic), Dr. Roy Flores (telephonic), Kim (for Amanda Burke), and Christy Farley.

Staff: Debra Raeder, Lauren Kielsmeier (telephonic), and Erin Hart.

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Karen Nicodemus called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Nicodemus welcomed members of the Alignment Committee and invited everyone to introduce him or herself.

2. Update and Discussion: Graduation Requirements

Staff provided information from Achieve to the Committee on the Algebra II End-of-Course Exam fact sheet as well as fact sheets related to the issues states are facing when raising graduation requirements and integrating more rigor into standards as well as information on what other states are requiring for graduation. The Committee discussed availability of data on how Arizona students are currently doing (e.g. graduation rates; who's going to college; who's remediating; who's successfully completing degree programs; etc.). Committee members indicated that much of this information is currently encompassed in data, reports and studies available from ABOR, the Department of Education, ACCA and the JCC, as well as the upcoming NCHEMS Report. Staff will pursue providing these reports to the Committee. Staff also reviewed the draft strategic plan that details an action strategy for the Governor's education efforts from 2007-2010. It was suggested that staff add a column to check off items that are completed.

3. Update and Discussion: Alignment Institute

Staff reported that Arizona's Alignment Team is headed to Minneapolis, Minnesota to attend Achieve's second Alignment Institute on July 28th through July 31st. At this meeting, Team members will receive the results of the first quality review of the mathematics standards recommendations, have an opportunity to work on and further address the changes to the standards with technical assistance from Achieve, and engage with the other cohort states on accomplishments and challenges. Achieve will also introduce recent research, tools, and materials that will help further our alignment efforts including a closer look at college admissions and placement tests; a discussion on Algebra II as a gateway course as well as the 9-state Algebra II end of course assessment; and information on benchmarks that are being back-mapped in order to create a progression of skills through middle and high school that will ensure students are able to reach the rigorous levels required for entering college and work.

4. Update: Higher Education Demand & Feasibility Study

Staff reported that a series of 18 community conversations were hosted in nine rural cities the week of July 9th. The purpose of holding these meetings was to gather information, better understand the nuances of each community, and to confirm that the data that we have collected for the study is representative of each region. The meetings took place in Lake Havasu City, Kingman, Flagstaff, Prescott, Show Low, Thatcher, Sierra Vista, Yuma and Casa Grande. Each meeting was full of robust conversation with community leaders in business, government, workforce development, economic development, K-12 education and higher education. The feedback received in these meetings will be included in the study's narrative report that is expected to be completed in August.

5. Next Steps

Dr. Nicodemus reported that the State Board of Education will be conducting a study session on Aug 10th regarding raising graduation requirement to 4 years of mathematics, specifically up to Algebra II, as well as increasing science, foreign language and career and technical education requirements.

6. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to address the Committee.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.